

Forest Service seeking public input on proposed changes to Recreation Fees identified by the National Forests in Alabama

The USDA Forest Service is proposing fee changes at developed recreation sites throughout Alabama's national forests across the state.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites. Raising the revenue collected through recreation fees would help the forests improve infrastructure at campsites and day-use sites and hire additional recreation staff during the season of operation.

Under REA, all fee changes must be proposed and approved by a citizen's advisory committee. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

The public is invited to submit comments to the proposed fee changes at developed recreation sites. The comment period is set to end by close of business on January 15, 2024. To ensure that your comments are considered, please send your comments no later than the above date to National Forests in Alabama, Attention: Daks Kennedy, 2946 Chestnut Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36107 or SM.FS.pa_alabama@usda.gov. Comments can also be provided online at: <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=72a44f7743c948b69e9b273c6cfc5f60>.

Oral comments must be provided in person at the National Forests in Alabama to Daks Kennedy, RHELM Staff Officer, during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or by calling 334-241-8128 and indicating you would like to provide comments on the proposed recreation fee changes. For more information on the proposed project, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama>.

Once public involvement is complete, the proposed fee changes will be reviewed by a Recreation Advisory Committee, who will submit their recommendation to the Regional Forester for a final decision.

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Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).